



**Attorney Docket No: DORT 01/01US**

**PATENT**

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

**In re application of: Michael V. CONANT et al.**

Serial No.: **Examiner: Unknown**

Filed: February 14, 2001 Art Unit: Unknown

For: A METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR ELECTRONIC NEGOTIATION OF  
DOCUMENT CONTENT

Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

## **PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

The following preliminary amendments and remarks are respectfully submitted in connection with the above-identified application.

## **IN THE ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE**

**Please insert the following Abstract:**

--A method and apparatus provide for the negotiation of the content of a document via an electronic exchange. In one example an electronic exchange operates as a repository of forms of contracts. A user can initiate a negotiation process by selecting a form contract and, if desired, customizing the contract to a particular transaction. The user can then advise a third party as to the existence of the contract on the exchange. The parties can then conduct a negotiation of